

TABLE 7. Schedule for administering chemoprophylaxis against meningococcal disease

Drug	Age group	Dosage	Duration and route of administration*
Rifampin [†]	Children aged <1 mo	5 mg/kg body weight every 12 hrs	2 days
	Children aged ≥1 mo	10 mg/kg body weight every 12 hrs	2 days
	Adults	600 mg every 12 hrs	2 days
Ciprofloxacin [§]	Adults	500 mg	Single dose
Ceftriaxone	Children aged <15 yrs	125 mg	Single IM [¶] dose
Ceftriaxone	Adults	250 mg	Single IM dose

* Oral administration unless indicated otherwise.

[†] Not recommended for pregnant women because it is teratogenic in laboratory animals. Because the reliability of oral contraceptives might be affected by rifampin therapy, consideration should be given to using alternative contraceptive measures while rifampin is being administered.

[§] Not usually recommended for persons aged <18 years or for pregnant and lactating women because it causes cartilage damage in immature laboratory animals. Can be used for chemoprophylaxis of children when no acceptable alternative therapy is available. Recent literature review identified no reports of irreversible cartilage toxicity or age-associated adverse events among children and adolescents (Source: Burstein GR, Berman SM, Blumer JL, Moran JS. Ciprofloxacin for the treatment of uncomplicated gonorrhea infection in adolescents: does the benefit outweigh the risk? Clin Infect Dis 2002;35:S191–9).

[¶] Intramuscular.

Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 54(RR07);1-21